

Jordan

Country Overview



Language: Arabic (official) & English

Religion: Muslim 97.2% (official; predominantly Sunni), Christian 2.2%

Capital: Amman

Currency: Jordanian dinar

Government: Parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy

King: Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein

Reign: 1999-Present

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Background

Jordan is located in the Middle East and has been at the forefront of international humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts over the past decades. Jordan has a long history of providing asylum to persecuted groups of people starting with the Palestinians fleeing Israel in 1948. Overall, Jordan has welcomed a significant amount of Palestinian and Iraqi refugees that have formed a very large and integral part of their population. As of recent years, the violent civil war in Syria has forced an estimated 4.8 million Syrians to flee into to neighboring countries, therefore placing a considerable burden on Jordan and other countries. Although located in a conflict zone, Jordan has maintained a fairly peaceful nation. The constitution provides for free practice of one's religion and faith, unless it "violates public order or morality or conflicts with Islamic law." While the official state religion is Sunni Islam, Christians tend to have freedom to worship.

Refugees

- ◆ Jordan has received about 1.3 million refugees of which 650,000 are registered
- ◆ Jordan hosts the second-greatest ratio of refugees to citizens of any country in the world and the fifth-largest refugee population in absolute terms
- ◆ The government is stretched beyond its capacity to deliver essential services like healthcare, education, and waste management in the cities most